



Maryam Rajavi's New Year and Christmas Greetings



Dear Christians in Iran and everywhere else, Supporters of the Iranian Resistance across the world,

I would like to greet you this Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ, which has coincided this year with the birthday of the Prophet Mohammad. I would also like to extend my greetings for the New Year.

I wish for 2016 to be a year of unity and victory over Islamic extremism, particularly the religious fascism ruling Iran and its evil allies in the Middle East who continue to sow seeds of enmity in the world.

We remember Jesus Christ when he said: "Love one another just as I love you".

Similarly in the Quran, God says about Mohammad: "We sent thee as a Mercy for all mankind".

This is the message of all divine religions and so the coincidence of these two births, is a feast of brotherhood among all nations.

Fortunate are those who have found the essence of Christianity and Islam in love, compassion and freedom.

And we salute Virgin Mary, the symbol of love and sacrifice who is described in the Bible as "loved by God".

The birth and emergence of every prophet marks a new birth for mankind in social life.

When our world is under attack by terror and extremism, we can find the light of

freedom, tolerance and perseverance against fundamentalism and extremism in these births. Muslims and Christians can rely on their common values to stand up to those who pervert their religions.

So, in contrast to what the extremists seek, we should make our hope and faith in humanity run deeper than ever.

Let us hope for a swift end to extremism and for the liberation of the people of Syria from the dictatorships of Bashar Assad, Khamenei and Daesh terrorists.

Let us hope for an end to displacement and homelessness of Christians throughout the Middle East.

And let us hope for the relief of converted Christians in Iran from the oppression of ruling mullahs and for freedom of the whole Iranian nation from this religious dictatorship.

On this occasion, I call on the world community to form an international front against the religious dictatorship in Iran and its proxies and militia in Syria and Iraq, and to fight Islamic extremism, the enemy of true Muslims, Christians and all followers of other divine religions.

May the message of compassion, freedom and tolerance engulf the Middle East.

May the world get relieved from tyranny and fundamentalism and enjoy a new birth and revival.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Christmas Eve Service at St Germain-des-Près, Paris

*An Iranian Resistance Delegation Led by Maryam Rajavi
Attended a Christmas Eve Ceremony at one of Historic Churches in Paris*



First row from left to right: Nahid Hemat-Abadi, Narges Azedanloo, Mohammad Ali Tohidi, Maryam Rajavi, Shahzad Sadr, Sarvnaz Chitsaz, Colonel Behzad Moezi, Dowlat Nowrouzi, Abolghasem Rezaei



Paris, "December 24th 2015" - Maryam Rajavi attended a Christmas Eve ceremony at one of the historic churches in the French capital, Saint Germain-des-Près Abbey.

The church's Minister welcomed Maryam Rajavi and her accompanying delegation. The service began with Christmas carols and hymns.

In one poignant moment, Maryam Rajavi laid flowers at the scene of the nativity depicting the birth of Christ. Mrs Rajavi was then taken on a tour around the abbey and shown a statue of the Virgin Mary set behind a candle-lit display.

In his opening sermon, the Minister announced Mrs. Rajavi's presence in the Christmas Eve ceremony and introduced her to the audience. He expressed his

Christmas greetings to the guests from the Iranian Resistance and gave prayers to those Muslims who have been victimized by extremists.

Maryam Rajavi extended her Christmas greetings to the Church Minister and in an exchange of views with him, she said: I have come here to pray before Jesus Christ for the salvage of my oppressed people in Iran. I have come to pray for the salvage of people in the Middle East from the clutches of tyranny and extremism under the name of Islam. And I have brought with me the message of Iranian Muslims, especially the men and women who remain steadfast at Camp Liberty.

On the first Christmas following the deadly terrorist attack in Paris on November 13th, where 130 people died, Rajavi added: I have come to ask God for salvation of their souls

and consolation of their families. As a Muslim woman I reiterate that Islam is shocked by the violence and terrorism perpetrated in the name of God.

Islamic fundamentalists, including the ruling mullahs of Iran, are the enemies of Christ. Mohammad's message, and that of wider Islam, is the promotion of compassion, freedom and brotherhood between followers of other religions.

Maryam Rajavi added: Christ's message is one of deliverance, unity and complete steadfastness in the face of oppression and duplicity: our Resistance strides in the same path.

Maryam Rajavi moreover urged all Christians to pray for the victory and liberation of the oppressed people and political prisoners of Iran.





Iran's Regime Arrests Christians on Christmas Day

NCRI - Iran's fundamentalist regime arrested a group of practicing Iranian Christians on Christmas Day at an in-house church in the city of Shiraz, southern Iran.

The group of Iranian Christians had gathered together last Friday, December 25th to celebrate Christmas when plain-clothes agents of the Iranian regime's notorious Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) raided the in-house gathering.

Armed MOIS agents ransacked much of the place and confiscated personal items and satellite dishes, according to eye-witness reports, which also reported that agents behaved 'offensively' towards those detained.

Among those arrested were: Mohsen Javadi, Elaheh Izadi, Ahmad Golshani-Nia, Reza Mohammadi, Mahmoud Salehi, Moussa Sari-Pour, Alireza Ali-Qanbari, Mohammad-Reza Soltanian, and a ninth person whose identity was not



established.

In a separate event on Wednesday, December 23rd, MOIS agents in the central city of Isfahan arrested Iranian Christian Mr. Meysam Hojjati in a raid on his home.

Mr. Hojjati was beaten and handcuffed while his home was ransacked by four MOIS agents. His books, computer, mobile phone and even his decorated Christmas tree were confiscated. Mr. Hojjati was previously arrested by agents of the intelligence ministry in March 2012.

At the news of the Christians' arrests, Shahin Gobadi of the

Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) stated: "There has been a steady deterioration of human rights abuses in Iran during Hassan Rouhani's tenure as president including executions and suppression of religious and ethnic minorities. This is just another case in point. Actually the clerical regime is one of the top violators of rights of religious minorities including Christians in the world. The regime has institutionalized the repression of the Iranian people as the main tool of its survival."

Rouhani's Red Herring

An article by Mohammad Mohaddessin,
Chairman of the NCRI Foreign Affairs Committee

In the Middle Ages, it was common practice for bandits to install horseshoes backwards in order to cover their tracks as that would trick law enforcement agents to go in the opposite direction in pursuit. The trick has morphed into a proverb in Persian literature, and it is similar expression to what is commonly known in the West as a "red herring." While the religious fascism ruling Iran uses 21st century machinations to pillage, murder and massacre, it nevertheless uses the same tactics employed by bandits of the Middle Ages.

Remarks by the Iranian regime's President Hassan Rouhani – under whose two-year reign 2,000 people have been executed -- on the occasion of "Week for the Unity of the Islamic World" amount precisely to the same type of a red herring. The mullahs ruling Iran champion themselves as the guardians of unity in the Islamic world despite the fact that they are the most important and

underlying source of discord within the Islamic world, having fanned the flames of sectarian violence in Muslim countries on an unprecedented scale and contributing towards the deaths of 300,000 innocent Syrians.

While there is not a single Sunni mosque in Tehran, a city of 14 million people, and while regime agents demolished the Sunnis' only prayer hall, Rouhani boasts of equal rights between the Sunnis and the Shiites in Iran.

By establishing an Islamic Caliphate under the banner of the velayat-e faqih (absolute clerical rule), Ruhollah Khomeini, Ali Khamenei and Rouhani have legitimized stoning, limb amputation and eye gouging under the name of Islam and have in the process tarnished the image of Islam and Muslims. Yet, Rouhani brazenly claims "we must eliminate Islam's negative image in cyberspace." In truth, no one has stained the image

of Islam and Muslims more than the criminals ruling Iran.

Rouhani is the president of a regime whose record includes 120,000 political executions, the deaths of one million Iranians in the deeply unpatriotic eight-year war with Iraq, the pilfering of the nation's wealth, the export of terrorism and the quest for nuclear weapons. The regime's terrorists have spared no capital, from Abuja to Beirut, from Damascus to Baghdad and Kabul and the whole of the Islamic world. Yet, Rouhani impudently said "we must unite and stand against the ideology and the language of violence preached by armed Jihadist groups such as Daesh."

Rouhani should be reminded that the Iranian people have an added incentive to overthrow the clerical regime, first ridding Iran of the mullahs' evil rule and secondly liberating Muslims, who have been taken hostage for 37 years. The mullahs cannot hide their blood-stained tracks from the Iranian people, who will not rest until they have succeeded in toppling this religious tyranny.

A Muslim Leader who Should be Heard this Christmas



By Ken Blackwell
Dec 25, 2015

Amb. Ken Blackwell is a former Cincinnati mayor and U.S. ambassador to the UN human rights commission.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you." (John 15:12-13)

These words of Jesus represent the true essence of Christmas and this special season.

This is the time of year to wish for God's blessing in the upcoming year. But it is also a time to reflect upon what happened during the year that is about to end.

The world news this year has unfortunately been filled with horror, and the last months of the year brought that horror disturbingly close to home. The carnage in San Bernardino showed that the threat of Islamic extremism recognizes no boundaries and that the sense of security President Obama expressed earlier in 2015 was ill-advised. And as we usher in 2016, which is an election year, one of the main issues of the day has again become terrorism and how to handle it, especially in the form of the Islamic State and Islamic extremism as a whole.

This phenomenon is a danger not only to our national security but also to the cherished values of civilized society. It has targeted the very concepts of cultural and ideological tolerance and has tried to undermine friendship and coexistence between Muslims and Christians which are part of the fabric of our society in the modern era.

In fighting Islamic extremism, a strategy is needed. It includes decisive military,

intelligence, and law enforcement measures; but that is not enough. Part of a coherent strategy is identifying our allies in this battle and reaching out to them. And the best such allies are moderate Muslim leaders who are willing to stand up to Islamic extremists in word and deed, especially those who possess legitimacy among the same people who are living under the thumb of extremist groups. A prime example of such a leader is Maryam Rajavi. As the head of the Iranian opposition, she is leading the charge to overturn the rule of the ayatollahs that effectively brought political Islam into the modern world and turned extremist ideology into a global force. It was after the revolution of 1979 in Iran that high-profile hostage-takings became a means of governance and bombings, suicide attacks, and assassinations became the modus operandi for a theocratic state.

As a practicing Muslim, she has been fiercely pushing back against the ayatollahs' extremism for decades. A true believer in a democratic, moderate, tolerant interpretation of Islam, Rajavi believes anything that promotes terrorism or dictatorship is counter to the teachings of Islam, as is anything that violates people's freedoms or denies equality to women.

By embodying this modern, tolerant Muslim faith, Mrs. Rajavi has helped to demonstrate the error of attributing this year's barbaric crimes to Islam itself. And by advocating on behalf of that faith, she urged other Muslims to avoid remaining on the fence during the conflict that will likely define the year 2016. She had emphasized that Muslims who believe in democracy are the most effective force that could fight and defeat this global danger. Mrs. Rajavi certainly understands and accepts the sacrifice that is involved in taking part in this fight. The Iranian regime executed some 120,000 members



of the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (MEK), the main Iranian opposition movement and the primary component of the coalition that she leads. One of her own sisters was executed by the ayatollahs and another by the regime of the Shah. Yet she and her movement have not wavered.

In her message on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year, Mrs. Rajavi wished "that 2016 would be a year of unity and victory over Islamic extremism and especially the religious fascism ruling Iran and its evil allies in the Middle East who sow the seeds of enmity in the world."

Her message is made timelier by the fact that this year Christmas coincides with the celebration of the birth of Mohammad in the Muslim world.

Mrs. Rajavi used her Christmas message to underscore her view on the need for unity in the fight against Islamic terrorism: "Muslims and Christians can rely on their common values to stand up to those who pervert their religions. So, in contrast to what the extremists want, we should make our hope and faith in humanity deeper than ever."

We can all share with her hope for a swift end to extremism, for the freedom of various peoples from the dictatorships of Bashar Assad, Ali Khamenei, and ISIS (ISIL) terrorists, and for an end to persecution of Christians throughout the Middle East and Christian converts in Iran from the oppression of the ruling mullahs.

Because her hopes for the coming year are the same as the hopes that are traditionally cherished in the West, she should be listened to this Christmas.

<http://townhall.com/columnists/kenblackwell/2015/12/25/draft-n2097060/page/full>

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IRAN
LIBERATION

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The NCRI News Bulletin, Iran Liberation, published since 1984, has reported continuously on the human rights violations in Iran, echoing the cries of the Iranian people for freedom and the honoring of their human dignity. Our efforts have played an important role in exposing the spread of terrorism and fundamentalism as

well as nuclear proliferation by the reigning mullahs.

A significant amount of our work is undertaken by volunteers, yet in order to meet the inevitable costs of publication and the expansion of our activities, we ask for your generosity in donating to our organisation. We ask you kindly to assist us in our endeavours to bring freedom, democracy and respect for human rights to Iran by donating to www.ncr-iran.org under the 'Donate' section. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

We thank you in advance.



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